



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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NEWS RELEASE

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Maryland man found guilty of fatally shooting half-brother

WASHINGTON - Earlier today, a Superior Court of the District of Columbia jury found Robert K. Dobyns, 37, of Silver Spring, Maryland, guilty of first-degree premeditated murder while armed, three related firearms offenses, and five counts of obstruction of justice, in connection with the fatal shooting of his own half-brother, Christopher Leon Dobyns, on March 28, 2007, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced. The verdicts concluded a 13-day trial before the Honorable Michael L. Rankin, Associate Judge of the Superior Court. The defendant was found guilty of all charges.

According to the evidence presented at trial, on March 28, 2007, at about 9 p.m., the defendant lured his brother to a location behind the then-closed Fletcher-Johnson Elementary School in the 4600 block of Benning Road, SE, Washington, D.C. (PSA 604). After distracting him, the defendant drew a .357 caliber revolver and shot his brother once in the back of the head at near point-blank range. After the victim fell to the ground, the defendant shot him again in his chest.

The defendant was arrested at his Silver Spring residence on October 1, 2007. Following his arrest, he engaged in a letter-writing and telephone-call campaign to solicit several persons to lie on his behalf, specifically, to tell law enforcement and others that someone else had committed the murder.

At his sentencing on June 18, 2009, the defendant faces at least a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years in prison, and a maximum sentence effectively equal to life in prison.

In announcing the result of the trial, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Taylor expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, particularly to MPD Detective Lee Littlejohn, the lead detective on the case, and to MPD Officer Grant Greenwalt, the lead crime-scene technician; to the U.S. Attorney's Office Litigation Technology Section and Victim-Witness Assistance Unit, in particular, Marcia L. Rinker; to USAO paralegal Sandra Lane; to former Assistant U.S. Attorney Heidi Pasichow, who supervised the grand jury investigation; and to the trial prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Liebman.

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